Recruitment of Women in Military

426. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to recruit women in other fields of the military besides Army Medical Corps and Military Nursing Service; and

(b) if so, when the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Proposals of the three Defence services regarding the induction of women in selected branches received by the Govt. are under examination for an early decision.

[*English*]

Procurement of Speed-Boats Lakshadweep

427. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of speed-boats being procured for Lakshadweep as per the provision made in the plan;

(b) the name of the country and the manufacturing company with which the order has been placed;

(c) the specified speed of the boats in aviation knots;

(d) the time of the delivery of boats fixed by the Government and whether the same is being adhered to; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the approximate time by which the boats are likely to be received and pressed into service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Two

(b) Orders have been placed on M/s Tille Scheepsbouw, Netherlands.

(c) 25 knots.

(d) The contractual delivery date for the two ferries was 12-9-90 at Cochin. The same has not been adhered to by the builders.

(e) The main reasons for delay have non-performance of the contract by the Yard and their sub contractors, problems with weld joints due to improper welding, dispute with the Yard on recovery of liquidated damages for delayed delivery and release of stage payment etc. The two ferries are now almost ready for shipment and are expected to reach Cochin by mid September, 1991, subject to a settlement being arrived at with the Yard. The ferries will be commissioned for operation soon after they are delivered.

Procurement of Mechanised Barges for Lakshadweep

428. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mechanised barges are being procured for Lakshadweep;

(b) the date when order was placed and with whom specifying the number of such mechanised barges;